Guidelines against fire in exploratory wells

1259. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had issued certain guidelines in respect of safeguards to be adopted against fire in exploratory wells;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether these guidelines were followed in respect of Kadi exploratory well where fire broke out in the recent past; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what action has been taken against the employees found responsible for the mishap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the normal safeguards observed by ONGC are:

(1) installation of blow-out preventor and well control equipment.

(2) Maintenance of proper mud weight.

(3) Use of flame proof equipments and accessories at site.

(4) Use of portable combustible gas detectors.

The report submitted by the Committee set up to enquire into the circumstances leading to the blow-out is being examined by the ONGC; appropriate action would be taken by the ONGC after the examination is over.

Mangalore Refinery

1260. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the private sector companies which have applied to become co-promoter of the Mangalore Refinery;

(b) what is the mode of selection of private company to be appointed as co-promoter;

(c) whether Government propose to give preference to industrial houses which are not under MRTPC to check the growth of monopoly houses; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha (*See* below).

(b) to (d) The selection of a suitable private co-promoter is still under the consideration of Government.

Statement

Parties showing interest in Mangalore Refinery

1. Gulf Consolidated Company
2. Zuari Agro Chemicals Limited
3. Essar Investments Limited
4. Larsen & Toubro
5. Reliance Industries Limited
6. Shell International Petroleum
7. Indian Rayon Corporation
8. The Century Spinning & Mfg. Co. Ltd.
9. United Breweries Group
10. Krishna Steel Industries
11. Dr. B. K. Sinha (France)